

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00082 200944Z

22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /052 W

----- 048541

R 200855Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2889

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TRIPOLI 0082

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: STUDENT SITUATION IN BENGHAZI

REF: TRIPOLI 0044

1. CHARGE AND CONSULAR OFFICER FOUND BENGHAZI CALM AND BACK TO NORMAL ON JANUARY 14 TO 16 VISIT. STUDENT MARCH ON JANUARY 14 IN MEMORY OF THOSE KILLED IN 1964 STUDENT RIOTS WAS PEACEFUL AND APPARENTLY UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL. CLASSES AT THE UNIVERSITY RESUMED ON JANUARY 17. NO UNUSUAL POLICE OR MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE CITY OR AT THE CAMPUS.

2. THE OLD CATHEDRAL WHICH IS NOW THE ARAB SOCIALIST UNION HEADQUARTERS WAS SERIOUSLY DAMAGED DURING RECENT DISTURBANCE AND MINISTRY OF LABOR OFFICE SEVERAL BLOCKS AWAY ALSO SUFFERED HEAVY DAMAGE. NO CONSENSUS ON NUMBER OF DEATHS BUT ONE AMERICAN PROFESSOR WHO HAD SEEN ONE BODY CARTED AWAY SAID TWO DOCTORS HAD TOLD HIM THERE WERE DEFINITELY THIRTEEN KILLED (PLUS A SYRIAN WHO DIED LATER IN THE HOSPITAL).

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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00082 200944Z

3. FOREIGN RESIDENTS OF BENGHAZI HAD

VARYING VERSIONS OF EVENTS. ALL AGREED HOWEVER
THAT SERIOUS SHOOTOUT BETWEEN POLICE AND STUDENTS
RESULTED IN A NUMBER OF DEATHS. WITH EXCEPTION
OF DAMAGE TO DOWNTOWN BUILDING, CITY ITSELF LITTLE AFFECTED
BY INCIDENTS. NEVERTHELESS CITY FATHERS I.E. LOCAL
LIBYAN COMMERCIAL AND SOCIAL ELITE REPORTEDLY MADE
CLEAR TO BOTH AUTHORITIES AND STUDENTS THAT FUTURE
CONFRONTATIONS SHOULD BE CONFINED TO CAMPUS AND NOT
BE ALLOWED TO DISTURB CITY LIFE. THEY FURTHER CLAIMED
THAT BULK OF STUDENTS DEMONSTRATORS WERE NON-BENGHAZIS
FOR WHOM THERE WAS LITTLE LOCAL SYMPATHY. MOST
FOREIGN RESIDENTS BELIEVE INCIDENT HAS RUN ITS COURSE
FOR TIME BEING BUT SMOLDERING RESENTMENT ON PART OF
BOTH AUTHORITIES AND STUDENTS MAY BE SOURCE OF FUTURE
PROBLEMS.
CARLE

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Message Attributes

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